



MACATAWA CYCLING CLUB

Sept. 9, 2013

RE: HB 4792 and HB 4799 Support

Dear Criminal Justice Committee:

The Macatawa Cycling Club of Holland, MI is happy to support for HB 4792 and HB 4799, legislation aimed at protecting non-motorized roadway users and educating motorists about safely sharing Michigan roads.

Macatawa Cycling Club organizes and promotes the Holland Hundred bicycle tour in July of every year, hosting between 1500 and 2000 riders annually. In addition we hold weekly rides.

In the winter we have monthly informational meetings. We often include the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department accident reconstruction team for a meeting on how bicycle accidents happen and can be prevented. House Bills 4792 and 4799 will help.

In Ottawa county strides are being made to provide improved road shoulder width, some bike lanes and reconstructing streets to make cycling a more practical and safe from of exercise and commuting. Again, these bills will help raise more awareness around roadway safety for bicyclists.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, improved educational efforts are underway to increase awareness among Michigan drivers and bicyclists. To be viable, however, "Share the Road" campaigns must have a legal backbone, the foundation of which are enhanced protections for non-motorized users.

We are very encouraged to see broad bipartisan support for these common sense bills, as demonstrated by the 20 individual Representatives from both sides of the aisle who signed on as cosponsors of HB 4792 and HB 4799. This includes numerous members of the Criminal Justice Committee.

On behalf of the Macatawa Cycling Club board of directors, we strongly urge you to vote in favor of HB 4792 and HB 4799.

Sincerely,

Tim Meyer
Board Member
Macatawa Cycling Club
Holland, MI